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Denmark – Culture of Excellence

Resuscitation Academy Denmark: Resuscitation Academy as a continuous national program

BACKGROUND

In 2017, the five Regional Prehospital Organizations (Emergency Medical Services) in Denmark took the initiative to implement Resuscitation Academy in Denmark. The program was built on the Resuscitation Academy concept from King County, Seattle (US) and on experiences and results from previous successful Resuscitation Academies. Since 2017, Resuscitation Academy Denmark has brought together Danish leaders, researchers, and practitioners in the cardiac arrest field to share knowledge and experiences in order to improve survival from cardiac arrest. From the beginning it was decided to run the Resuscitation Academy as a continuously program, constantly monitoring results and progress. The Danish Resuscitation Academies is funded by the Danish foundation, TrygFonden and supported by the Resuscitation Academy Foundation.

Resuscitation Academy Denmark is based on the chain of survival and the 10 steps for improving survival from cardiac arrest. The goal of the academies was to bring the Danish EMS-systems to the next level by sharing knowledge and concrete solutions including how to implement change. The attendees were encouraged to return home and make changes after each academy. The overall topics of the academies followed each of the 10 steps and continuously followed up on the previous academies.

RESULTS

As a result of the Resuscitation Academies, numerous topics have been explored, developed into projects or have been implemented in the Danish EMS. Some of the initiatives include improved data registration in the Danish Cardiac Arrest Registry, focus and monitoring dispatcher assisted CPR, standardized high performance CPR and a national pit crew approach, national implementation of a common citizens first responder program (Hearrunner), standardization of collecting data from AED, video assisted dispatch and AI in recognition of cardiac arrest. All of this has contributed to a further increase in survival and in total a quadrupling in both survival rate and both bystander CPR over the last 20 years in Denmark as illustrated in the case on “Quadrupling Survival from OHCA in Denmark”.

The implementation of the Resuscitation Academy concept has inspired to a similar concept and new approach on emergency stroke care. Stroke Academy Denmark has been established and the first national academy was held in October 2021, based upon the Utstein recommendation on emergency stroke care. The ambition is to hold seven stroke academies from 2021 to 2024 to improve emergency stroke care.

CONTACT

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